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Twilight Grower Education Series Continues - Organic Cut Flower Production – Sept. 10

Monday, September 10, 2012 - 5:30pm - 7pm, 1603 Main Rd., Westport, MA

Ben & Hannah Wolbach of Skinny Dip Farm grow a wide range of certified organic vegetables, herbs and flowers which they sell as locally as possible to restaurants and at farmers markets. Skinny Dip Farm has developed a following for their beautiful crops, particularly cut flowers! Learn more about growing practices, harvesting, pest control issues and the best varieties that flourish in the fields of Southeastern MA as well as at the markets. [Click here for more info & registration.](#)

Twilight Meeting for Commercial Greenhouses, Landscapers and Garden Retailers – Sept. 12

Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 3pm - 5:45pm, Elm Bank Horticulture Center, Wellesley, MA

Twilight Meeting: Impatiens Downy Mildew and Trial Garden Tour for Commercial Greenhouses, Landscapers and Garden Retailers

1 Pesticide Credit. Details: <http://extension.umass.edu/floriculture/>

Sponsors: UMass Extension Greenhouse Crops and Floriculture Program, Massachusetts Flower Growers Association and Ball Horticulture

Renewable Heating Workshop

Wednesday, September 19, 2012, 6pm - 8:30pm Red Fire Farm, 184 Meadow Road, Montague, MA

Presented by CISA and the MA Farm Energy Program - Looking for ways to cut fossil fuel use and heat your farm buildings or greenhouses with renewable energy (solar, wood or geothermal)? Considering a new heating system for a packing shed, crop storage, or greenhouse? Representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, MA Farm Energy Program, and MA Clean Energy Center will discuss technology and equipment options, drawing from farmer experiences across the state.

An announcement for new funding programs to help you convert to renewable heating systems will be made along with a guided tour of Red Fire Farm's heat pump set-up for renewable heating and cooling. Suggested donation is \$5 and light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by Monday, September 17th to Devon at 413-665-7100.

The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees) Seeks Proposals



The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees) are seeking proposals for the agricultural use of up to 8 acres of fields at the [Bullitt Reservation](#) in Ashfield, MA. Priority will be given to proposals that include a strong engagement focus or willingness to partner with us on engagement activities such as programs and workshops, newsletters, or co-branding opportunities at farmers' markets or other venues.

The non-contiguous fields contain both level and rolling terrain and are suitable for tilling or grazing animals, but will require soil amendments as the fields have not been fertilized in many years although mowings have been left in the field rather than baled. No herbicides or pesticides have been applied to the fields in the last three years. A large barn is available on site and can be available for storage, washing station, CSA pick up room, etc. Please contact Wendy Sweetser at wsweetser@ttor.org or 413-628-4485 x1 for a copy of the full request for proposals and a soils map of the property.

Farmers' Market Opportunity



Please join us for two full weekends of music, crafts, food and family fun! We're looking to add to our select group of Farmers' Market participants this year and we need you! We have openings for **AppleFest (October 20-21, 10am-5pm)** and **BBQFest (October 27-28, 10am-5pm)**. Please consider joining us for one, or both weekends. [Click here for The Farmers' Market application](#). Please return it to: Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, Attn: Audra Lissell, 499 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA 01541. If you have any additional questions, please contact Audra at 978-464-2300 x3703 or audra@wachusett.com.

Vendors/Sponsors Invited to 3rd Annual Boston Local Food Festival

Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts (SBN) invites you to the 3rd annual Boston Local Food Festival taking place on Sunday, October 7 from 11am-5pm on the Rose Kennedy Greenway, Wharf Area Parks, right in the heart of Downtown Boston! Organized by SBN, a Buy Local Group of Massachusetts, and local non-profit

organization with the mission to build economies that are local, green and fair, the Boston Local Food Festival is the premier local food event in Massachusetts bringing together over 100 local food vendors (restaurants, farmers, specialty food and beverage producers, non-profits and more) in support of "Healthy Local Food for All". The festival draws over 30,000 festival goers each year and is projected to draw up to 50,000 people in its new expanded location, making it an unprecedented opportunity to outreach to local eaters. The festival has been voted "Best of the New Events" by the Boston Globe, was recently ranked one of the top 5 events by BizBash Magazine, and generates over 5 million gross media impressions each year!

You can learn more and register to be a vendor or sponsor at the following link:

<http://bostonlocalfoodfestival.com/>. As a vendor you receive a dedicated 10x10 fire proof tent, 2 6ft tables and 2 chairs. In addition, you receive a dedicated food blogger to help spread the word about your business and your participation in the festival. We hope to see you on October 7th!

Whole Farm Planning for Beginning Women Farmers, 2012-2013 Session



If you're a women who has been farming for less than ten years, the Whole Farm Planning series is an opportunity to learn from other women farmers and experienced mentors. The program consists of one-on-one mentorships, on-farm field days, business planning workshops, and round-table discussions with a network of women farmers to share concerns and successes. In order to cultivate a holistic understanding of farming, each aspect of farm planning will be laid out, from creating a business plan to financial management in order to cultivate a holistic understanding of farming. Across the Northeast, over 200 women have graduated from the training giving them new tools, information and perspectives on how to succeed in farming.

This is a 10-workshop series that has 7 sessions held in the winter months and 3 farm tour sessions in spring. The first class will be held in late October or early November. Dates, times and locations for the workshops are to be decided. Participants must attend all 10 sessions and the class size is limited to seventeen attendees that are Massachusetts residents. There is a fee for this series and scholarships may be available. To learn more about the program and to receive an application, please contact Devon Whitney-Deal at 413-665-7100 x22 or email devon@buylocalfood.org.



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/MDARCommish. For our ongoing list of events and workshops visit and bookmark: www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm.